

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 639

By Gotto

A RESOLUTION to honor Donald H. Alexander, MPH of the Tennessee Medical Association, for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those resolute public servants of Tennessee who, in their years of work, have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Donald H. Alexander of Nashville is one such estimable person who served with distinction for thirty-nine years with the Tennessee Medical Association (TMA), and is due to retire in 2013 after serving the organization and Tennessee physicians in a number of management positions, including, ultimately, that of chief executive officer; and

WHEREAS, a native of Nashville, Don Alexander graduated from David Lipscomb University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education before earning a master's degree in Public Health from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Don Alexander joined the TMA in 1973, since which time he has seen nearly four decades of transformation in Tennessee's health care and medical communities and has helped shepherd the state's doctors through some of the most challenging times in their profession; and

WHEREAS, Don Alexander was the principal TMA staff member responsible for the creation of the nation's earliest Impaired Physician Program, now the Tennessee Medical Foundation's Physician Health Program, a program widely recognized and used as a model by other states; and

WHEREAS, Don Alexander also founded the first loan program in the country to assist recovering impaired physicians; and

WHEREAS, as chief executive officer of the TMA, Don Alexander led efforts to bring real medical liability reform to Tennessee, that has already aided Tennessee doctors by reducing the number of medical liability lawsuits filed, resulting in lower liability insurance premiums. These results encourage physicians to stay in our state, take on more high-risk cases, and accept more patients, thereby improving access to healthcare in our state; and

WHEREAS, Don Alexander is also involved in improving health care and the medical profession at the national level with his active involvement in the American Medical Association (AMA), serving on the Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) Executive Committee since its inception, attending national meetings and advocacy events; and

WHEREAS, Don Alexander is committed to serving physicians and patients by personally advocating for good medicine through his relationships with Tennessee's leading state and national elected representatives and policymakers; and

WHEREAS, his exemplary commitment and accomplishments on behalf of physicians and patients have earned him national recognition, in the form of a Medical Executive Lifetime Achievement Award awarded by the AMA for his significant contributions to the medical profession over the past thirty-nine years; and

WHEREAS, devoted to his family, Mr. Alexander enjoys the love and support of his wife, Joan; their children, Donald (Buddy) Alexander Jr., Casey Alexander, Lori Sephton, and Cindy Johnson; and their grandchildren, Annie Alexander, Jake Sephton, Adam Johnson, Harrison Alexander, Jennifer Johnson, Kate Alexander, Kelly Sephton, Allie Alexander, Reed Alexander, and Mason Alexander; and

WHEREAS, being a native Tennessean and traveling our great state's highways and backroads extensively during his tenure, both in service to Tennessee's doctors and in search of new golf courses to take his time, money, and golf balls during his retirement, Don Alexander has distinguished himself as our state's foremost authority on exotic venues to acquire fried bologna sandwiches and Cheetos...against sound medical advice!; and

WHEREAS, Don Alexander exemplifies the spirit and allegiance that are characteristic of a true Tennessean and have earned Tennessee the honor of being known far and wide as the "Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Don Alexander has won the unbridled respect and admiration of the healthcare community and the physicians of Tennessee, as well as his staff at the Tennessee Medical Association; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Don Alexander our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, salute his honorable and distinguished service to the Tennessee Medical Association, the physicians of our state and the patients they serve, and this State, and wish him every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.